**Reading Guide for Chapters 15-19**

**Analyzing the Writing: Make Inferences**: When readers make inferences, they use information from the text along with their own knowledge to answer a question they have about the text. Complete the chart below by writing a question and inference for each event provided. The first one is done for you.

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| **Event** | **Question** | **Inference** |
| Thick Fingers tells Dimpled Chin not to cry and whine the way he did when he was a baby. (page 164) | *Possible question:* How does Thick Fingers now how Dimpled Chin behaved when he was a baby? | *Possible inference:* Perhaps  Thick Fingers is Dimpled  Chin’s older brother or a  family friend. |
| Dimpled Chin asks Gopal’s permission to eat. (page 173) | *Possible question*: Why does Dimpled Chin ask Gopal’s permission to eat? |  |
| Gopal always has smart ideas. Thick Fingers compliments Gopal’s idea for getting the boxes upstairs, and then GC becomes angry and refuses to help. (page 177) |  |  |
| Gopal thinks Scar knows it  was Gopal who had the idea to move the boxes upstairs. (page 189) |  |  |

1. Each of the boys in the group has power over the others that he can use to protect himself. What is each boy’s power?

*Example: Night chatterer cuts the boys hair and could “accidently” nip or cut another boy.*

2. Reread pages 172–173. Why does power begin to shift from Thick Fingers to Gopal?

3. On page 193, Gopal says he must “make [his] luck.” What does he mean by this?

4. Other than Gopal, which boys have shared their names with the group, and what does sharing

their names signify?

**Chapter 20-22 Reading Guide**

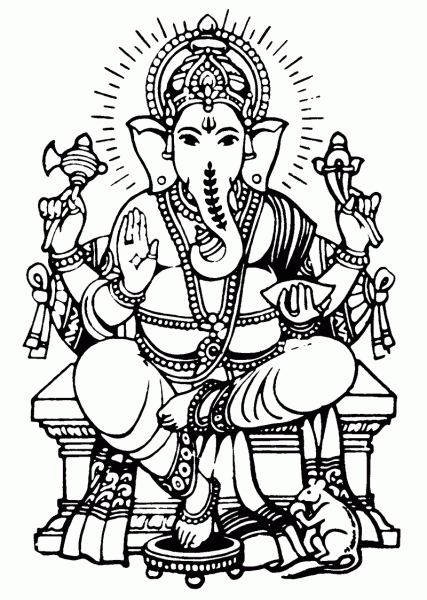
1. Reread Roshan’s kahani about his family on pages 205–207. In what ways is Roshan’s background similar to Gopal’s?

2. In chapter 20, Gopal thinks, “If we can comfort one another, we can be a family.” Find examples in the novel when Gopal gives comfort to the imprisoned boys, his parents, or his brothers. In addition to offering comfort, what other things do you think are necessary to become a family?

3. How does GC change over the course of Chapters 20–22?

4. Why didn’t Barish (Thick Fingers) admit his connection to Amar (Dimple Chin) sooner, and what new fears does this raise for Gopal?

5. Why does Gopal not escape on the bus when Scar sends him out with money for medicine? What would you have done in Gopal’s situation?



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| **#6 RESEARCH:** Festival of Ganesha  On page 216, Gopal mentions that part of his imprisonment takes place over the annual Festival of Ganesha. Find out more about the history of this festival and how it is celebrated in Maharashtra, where Mumbai is located. Create a mini poster about your findings (notes) to share with our classmates. You can make this “poster” on the back of your sheet! |

**Chapters 23-25 Reading Guide:**

1. Why does GC react badly to Gopal’s story about the ants and the jackal?
2. Reread pages 264–265. Where is Gopal when he decides that he can’t leave the other boys behind, and what does he do?
3. In Chapter 25, Gopal unexpectedly gets another chance to run an errand, this time on his own. Reread page 263.
   1. Give a piece of text evidence that shows he is “excited.”
   2. Give a piece of text evidence that he feels “guilty” or “ashamed”:
4. In chapter 25 Gopal gets another chance to escape. What do you think he should have done and why? Support your reason with 2 pieces of evidence from the book (You can use evidence from any chapter).

*Should Gopal have escaped (circle one)?* YES NO

*Reason:*

*Evidence #1:*

*Evidence #2:*

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| **RESEARCH: Diwali**  In the text, there are many references to Diwali Season. Take some time to research one of the following:   * The Festival of Diwali * The Goddess Lakshmi * Dhanteras   Once you have picked a topic, do some research and create a small poster on the back of your sheet. Remember your poster can be notes and bullet points. Please include a picture as well. |



**Chapter 26-28**

1. What does Gopal mean when he thinks in chapter twenty-seven, “If I want to live, I must act like a twig”? How does acting like a twig serve Gopal throughout the novel?
2. Now that the boys have been rescued, all are going separate ways, back to their families. Do you think it is possible they will ever see each other again? What kind of reunion do you imagine for them?
3. At the end of the story, Gopal says he doesn’t want to ask where his father has been, nor does he want his family to ask where he has been. Why is this?
4. In what ways does Gopal use his education to his advantage throughout the book (make a bullet point list)?


























1. What does Boys without Names suggest about the value of education?

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| 1. **RESEARCH: SWEATSHOPS**   After reading this story, you get a good look at what Gopal and the other boys go through in the sweatshops. Do some research on sweatshops and the history of sweatshops. Why are there sweatshops? What countries have or had sweatshops? What are the conditions like? And answer any other questions you may have. Use the back of this sheet to answer questions and make a mini-poster. |

*Challenge Question* ***(optional)*:** The boys were making frames in the attic and then the frames would be exported. Who is responsible for this child labor? Is it the parents of the kids? Is it bosses (Scar) that keep these kids working? Is it the consumers (the people that buy the frames)? *Think about your research on sweatshops and explain your answer*.